Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 01143 221414Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 EA-10 ISO-00 /030 W

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R 221332Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3045

DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 1143

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, HU

SUBJ: OPENING OF KREDITANSTALT BUDAPEST OFFICE AND STATUS OF EFFORTS BY U.S.FIRMS TO OPEN OFFICES IN HUNGARY

- 1. ON APRIL 21 KREDITANSTALT OF VIENNA OFFICIALLY OPENED BUDAPEST REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE WHICH APPROVED BY HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BANK IN MID-1974. OFFICE, WHICH IS FIRST OF ANY WESTERN COMPANY OTHER THAN AIRLINE TO OPEN IN HUNGARY SINCE LATE 1940S, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO UNDERTAKE BANKING FUNCTIONS AND WILL PRIMARILY CONCERN ITSELF WITTH TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES. KREDITANSTALT MANAGER WILL BE A RELATIVELY JUNIOR OFFICER WHO WILL BE RUNNING OPERATION FROM HIS RESIDENCE UNTIL SUITABLE OFFICE SPACE CAN BE FOUND.
- 2. INABILITY TO FIND ADEQUATE OFFICE FACILITIES CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM FOR FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK WHICH TO DATE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND SUITABLE LOCATION. UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 01143 221414Z

WHILE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BANK OFFICIALS STATE THAT THEY

HAVE BEEN TRYING TO HELP FNCB IN ITS SEARCH, THEY ACKNOW-LEDGE THAT OFFICE SPACE PROBLEM "A VERY DIFFICULT ONE." IT APPEARS NOW THAT OPENING OF FNCB BUDAPEST OFFICE, WHICH ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL, MAY NOW BE DELAYED FOR AT LEAST 2-3 MONTHS.

3. SECOND AMERICAN FIRM TO ASK FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH BUDAPEST OFFICE, DOW CHEMICAL, HAD ITS APPLICATION FORMALLY ACCEPTED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE ON MARCH 27.

ACCORDING TO HUNGARIAN DECREE GOVERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES BY FOREIGN FIRMS, MINISTRY HAS 90 DAYS FROM DATE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION TO ACT ON DOW REQUEST. DOW AND VOLVO ARE ONLY WESTERN FIRMS WHICH HAVE THUS FAR FORMALLY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO OPEN OFFICES IN BUDAPEST ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF JAPANESE COMPANIES ARE ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN HAVING THEIR OWN OFFICES. REGULATIONS CONCERNING TAXATION OF THESE OFFICES, WHICH WERE EXPECTED TO BE PUBLISHED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE IN FEB, HAVE YET TO APPEAR.

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